

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 NSAE-00 USSS-00 /031 W

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O 051857Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4578

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PARIS 28584

EXDIS

RABAT AND TUNIS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, EG, XF, IS

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 217449

1. ACTING DCM NOVEMBER 5 BRIEFED QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTOR PUAUX IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. PUAUX AND FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT, WHO INTERRUPTED MEETING, BOTH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF US EFFORT TO BRIEF FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

2. PUAUX BRIEFED US ON CONVERSATION BETWEEN EGYPTIAN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ZAYYAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT EARLIER IN DAY, ASKING THAT THIS INFORMATION BE VERY CLOSELY HELD. BASED ON WHAT ZAYYAT TOLD JOBERT, AS WELL AS WHAT EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI TOLD FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, EGYPTIAN POSITION HAS HARDENED A GREAT DEAL. EGYPTIANS REPORTEDLY INSIST ON THE FOLLOWING PHASED APPROACH TO RESOLVING ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. FIRST, ISRAELI FORCES MUST MOVE BACK TO OCTOBER 22 LINE IN EXCHANGE FOR ISRAELI POWS. SECOND, ISRAELIS SHOULD THEN MOVE ALL THEIR FORCES ON BOTH SIDES OF
SECRET

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CANAL BACK TO SINAI PASSES IN RETURN FOR EGYPTIANS PERMITTING FREE PASSAGE THROUGH BAB-EL-MANDEB. NO-MAN'S ZONE BETWEEN CANAL AND PASSES WOULD BE POLICED BY UNEF. THIRD, ISRAELIS SHOULD MOVE BACK TO 1967 LINES. FOURTH, EGYPTIANS WOULD THEN

BE WILLING TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES WITH ISRAELIS. HOWEVER, EGYPTIANS WOULD REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH ISRAELIS; ZAYYAT EXPLICITLY REJECTED RHODES-TYPE NEGOTIATIONS. ZAYYAT STRESSED THAT PRESENT CONTACT BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELI GENERALS HAD HAPPENED BEFORE AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED PRECEDENT FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. EGYPTIANS ALSO REPORTEDLY REFUSED EXCLUSIVE SOVIET-AMERICAN AUSPICES, AT GENEVA OR ELSEWHERE. EGYPTIANS DO NOT OBJECT TO US AND SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS, PROVIDED IT IS CLEARLY WITHIN CONTEXT OF UNSC PERMANENT MEMBERS; I.E., FOUR POWER FRAMEWORK, SINCE CHINA NOT INTERESTED.

3. WHILE RECOGNIZING, AS JOBERT HIMSELF HAS DONE PUBLICLY, THAT US AND SOVIET UNION HOLD THE KEYS TO UNLOCKING MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, PUAUX STRESSED THAT GOF IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC EITHER ABOUT US-SOVIET EXCLUSIVE AUSPICES. THUS, FRANCE ALSO HOPES THAT SETTLEMENT PROCESS WILL BE UNDER AUSPICES OF SECURITY COUNCIL PERMANENT MEMBERS.

4. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.
IRWIN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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